



PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GOVERNOR SIGNS ELECTIONEERING COMMUNICATIONS DISCLOSURE BILL

Olympia –Governor Gregoire today signed into law a bill requiring disclosure of political issue ads. The new law brings Washington into conformity with the United States Supreme Court ruling in *McConnell v. FEC* (2003).

An “electioneering communication” or “issue ad” does not directly urge people to vote for or against a candidate. Electioneering communications inform the public about political issues germane to an election and frequently attack candidates right before an election.

Commission Chair Mike Connelly of Spokane praised the new law saying it “allows voters to follow the money and identify the people behind the issue ads”

“This new law recognizes that timely disclosure to voters of the identity and sources of funding for issue ads is vitally important to the integrity of state, local, and judicial elections,” Connelly said.

Under the new law, who’s paying and how much is being spent on issue ads must be disclosed within 24 hours when they are presented just days before an election.

The Public Disclosure Commission requested the legislation after issue ads were used extensively by groups and organizations in the 2004 campaigns. Such ads focusing on candidates for Governor and Attorney General were aired just before the election but were either not reported or under-reported.

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